

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, July 8, 2005

MPDC INCREASES SECURITY PRECAUTIONS FOLLOWING LONDON MASS TRANSIT BOMBINGS

As a precautionary measure in response to this week's bombings of mass transit resources in London, England, the MPDC on Thursday raised its emergency threat level from Yellow (elevated) to Orange (high). The overall national threat level remains at Yellow, although the Department of Homeland Security did raise to Orange the threat level for the mass transit portion of the transportation sector nationwide. As a result, the MPDC activated its Joint Operations Command Center (JOCC), including the network of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras that monitor public spaces in downtown DC. To facilitate the exchange of information, the JOCC is staffed by MPDC personnel, as well as representatives from key public safety and transportation agencies in the DC area. In addition to the CCTV cameras, officials in the JOCC can monitor District Department of Transportation cameras on DC streets and Metro cameras in rail stations. The MPDC is coordinating efforts with Metro Transit Police and other area law enforcement agencies, and the Department is paying special attention to critical installations such as government buildings, utilities and sports stadiums. To enhance visibility, more MPDC officers are working in uniform (as opposed to plain clothes) and patrol vehicles have their visibility lights activated. Neighborhood patrols are being maintained, and additional specialized resources are in place, including canine teams, bomb technicians, harbor and helicopter units, and the MPDC's Special Threat Action Teams — officers who are specially trained and equipped to handle special threats. Finally, the MPDC is urging the public — especially train and bus passengers — to be vigilant and to contact police at (202) 727-9099 if they see anything suspicious.

- ① For more on emergency preparedness in DC, go to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547382,mpdcNav_GID,1547.asp
- ① Read Mayor Williams's statement on the London bombings at:
<http://dc.gov/news/statement.asp?id=187>

TERRORISM PREVENTION PROGRAM ENLISTS THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY'S SUPPORT

In the wake of the London bombings, the MPDC is once again enlisting the help of DC's business community in detecting and preventing possible terrorist acts in DC. Through a program called Operation TIPP — Terrorist Incident Prevention Program — the MPDC is reaching out to area businesses with information on how to detect suspicious activity that may be related to terrorism within their particular industry or service area. In addition, the MPDC has created a toll-free Operation TIPP line — 1-877-YOU-WATCH — for businesses and their employees to report suspicious activity to the police. The idea behind Operation TIPP is that potential terrorists may attempt to portray themselves as legitimate business customers and seek to purchase, lease or steal certain materials or equipment that would further their terrorist plots. The MPDC has identified more than four dozen industries and services that terrorists could potentially target. For each industry or service group, the MPDC is distributing customized information packets outlining suspicious activities that may be of concern to law enforcement. Calls to the Operation TIPP hotline are confidential and answered by trained MPDC professionals.

- ① For details, visit:
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1238,q,555173,mpdcNav_GID,1578,mpdcNav\[,32355\].asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1238,q,555173,mpdcNav_GID,1578,mpdcNav[,32355].asp)
- ① Want to get involved in Operation TIPP? Contact the MPDC's Special Operations Division at (202) 671-6505.

FIFTEEN NEW PHOTO ENFORCEMENT TRAFFIC SAFETY CAMERAS ARE ACTIVATED

As part of its continuing campaign to curtail aggressive driving and save lives in DC neighborhoods, the MPDC has activated 15 new photo enforcement cameras: five stationary photo radar cameras and 10 red-light intersection safety cameras. During the first 30 days of activation, only warning notices will be issued to drivers who are caught speeding aggressively or running red lights at the new camera locations. The warning notices are part of an effort to educate motorists about the dangers of speeding and red light running. Beginning in early August, however, aggressive speeders and red-light runners caught by photo enforcement cameras will receive Notices of Infraction in the mail. While photo-enforced violations do not carry points in the District, the fines for speeding range up to \$200 per violation and the penalty for running a red light is a \$75 fine. With the new cameras, DC now has 10 stationary photo radar cameras, 10 mobile photo radar units (including two work zone vans) and 49 red-light cameras. In recent years, photo enforcement has contributed to dramatic reductions in speeding and red-light running, as well as an overall drop in traffic fatalities.

CHIEF RAMSEY ISSUES STATEMENT CLARIFYING MPDC POLICY ON IMMIGRATION ISSUES

Chief Ramsey this week issued a statement reaffirming the MPDC's policy that prohibits MPDC officers from making inquiries into citizenship or residency status of individuals or from enforcing civil immigration laws. The statement also clarifies the conditions under which the MPDC may provide limited support to federal immigration authorities when they conduct criminal law enforcement operations in DC. The Chief issued the statement after some Latino community leaders expressed concern that the MPDC's occasional collaboration with federal immigration officials meant the Department had gone back on its policy with respect to the enforcement of civil immigration laws. The statement makes it clear that MPDC officers are strictly prohibited from making inquiries into citizenship or residency status for the purpose of determining whether an individual has violated the civil immigration laws or for the purpose of enforcing those laws. "In other words, the MPDC is not in the business of inquiring about the residency status of the people we serve and is not in the business of enforcing civil immigration laws," according to the statement. However, the MPDC is obligated to provide limited support to federal immigration authorities — in areas such as traffic and crowd control and transportation — when they conduct criminal law enforcement operations in the District.

NEWS & NOTES

National Night Out 2005. Mark your calendars for August 2. That evening, DC will join the rest of the country in celebrating the annual National Night Out against crime. All seven police districts will be holding crime prevention events. For details, contact your local police district, or check back at http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,547053,mpdcNav_GID,1541.asp.

40 Days of Increased Peace. In an attempt to reduce crime by providing young people with positive activities during the summer, all seven police districts are also participating in the "40 Days of Increased Peace" initiative. For details, including schedules of events, go to <http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,557371.asp>.

- ① Read the news release at:
<http://app.mpdc.dc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=3254>
- ① For details on DC's two automated traffic enforcement programs, go to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,548131,mpdcNav_GID,1547.asp

- ① To read the full statement — in English or Spanish — go to:
<http://app.mpdc.dc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=3261>
- ① To better serve DC's Latino communities, the MPDC created the Latino Liaison Unit. Learn more at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1232,q,540963,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,131417|.asp.

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 7/8/05
◆ 2005: 91	
◆ 2004: 97	
◆ % Change: -6.2%	
◆ Closure Rate: 52.79% (46 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 7/2/05
◆ Total: 908	
◆ Drugs: 156	
◆ Weapons: 26	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 4	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 51	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 7/2/05
◆ Arrests: 52	
◆ Curfew Violations: 106	
◆ Truants: 0	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 7/6/05
◆ July: 31	
◆ June: 155	
◆ 2005 Total: 1,261	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 7/8/05
◆ 2005: 21	
◆ 2004: 29	
◆ % Change: --27.6%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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